

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims, in the Application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of improving performance in a multiprocessor system that uses a limited number of physical interfaces to transact network data comprising the steps of:

determining whether data being processed is network data; and

transacting, if the data is network data, the data using a virtual Internet protocol (IP) address, the virtual IP address being an IP address given to a data holding device in the multiprocessor system.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the data holding device is virtual IP address is an ~~address of~~ a buffer.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the buffer is implemented using memory allocation.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein the buffer contends for access to one of the limited physical interfaces.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein before transmitting the data to the physical interface, the virtual IP address is replaced by a destination IP address.

6. (Currently amended) A computer program product on a computer readable medium for improving performance of a multiprocessor system that uses a limited number of physical interfaces to transact network data comprising:

code means for determining whether data being processed is network data; and

code means for transacting, if the data is network data, the data using a virtual Internet protocol (IP) address, the virtual IP address being an IP address given to a data holding device in the multiprocessor system.

7. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein the data holding device is virtual IP address ~~is an address~~ of a buffer.

8. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 7 wherein the buffer is implemented using memory allocation.

9. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 8 wherein the buffer contends for access to one of the limited physical interfaces.
10. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 9 wherein before transmitting the data to the physical interface, the virtual IP address is replaced by a destination IP address.
11. (Currently amended) An apparatus for improving performance of a multiprocessor system that uses a limited number of physical interfaces to transact network data comprising:

means for determining whether data being processed is network data; and

means for transacting, if the data is network data, the data using a virtual Internet protocol (IP) address, the virtual IP address being an IP address given to a data holding device in the multiprocessor system.
12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the data holding device is ~~virtual IP address is an address of~~ a buffer.
13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the buffer is implemented using memory allocation.

14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the buffer contends for access to one of the limited physical interfaces.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein before transmitting the data to the physical interface, the virtual IP address is replaced by a destination IP address.

16. (Currently amended) A multiprocessor system having means for improving performance comprising:

at least one memory device to store code data; and

using one of the processors processor for processing the code data to determine whether data being processed is network data and to transact, if the data is network data, the data using a virtual Internet protocol (IP) address, the virtual IP address being an IP address given to a data holding device in the multiprocessor system.

17. (Currently amended) The multiprocessor system of Claim 16 wherein the data holding device is ~~virtual IP address is an address of~~ a buffer.

18. (Original) The multiprocessor system of Claim 17 wherein the buffer is implemented using memory allocation.

19. (Original) The multiprocessor system of Claim 18 wherein the buffer contends for access to one of the limited physical interfaces.
20. (Original) The multiprocessor system of Claim 19 wherein before transmitting the data to the physical interface, the virtual IP address is replaced by a destination IP address.